



The City Shareholder

"You are the City"



City of Blanding

50 West 100 South

News Letter

Current City Issues



Spring Clean Up

It is that time of year again to clean up our city and yards. With the moisture we have received there will be plenty to spur on weeds. Complaints are received every year regarding neighbors who do not keep their weeds abated. Please be a good neighbor and keep your homes and lots well cared for.

The Blanding City Council has designated Saturday April 14th as Blanding City Spring Clean Up Day. The City transfer station will be open for dumping **at no cost to Blanding City Residents** (except for extra cost items) this day including the normal restrictions. **Because free dumping is limited to Blanding City Residents this year you will need to bring a copy of your City utility bill showing that you are in City limits and paying for City garbage service.** Lets take pride in our community and neighborhoods and make them shine!



Budget Time Approaching Financial Projections

Beginning in April, the City Council will consider budget requests. Look for public notice in the Panorama or just plan on coming to City Council on April 10, 2012. Your City Council approves a tight budget each year saving as much as possible while still providing affordable and competitive rates for you as shareholders. City revenues are even to up slightly with a 10% increase in sales tax revenue. Property Tax revenue is down 10% due to lower collection rates and decrease in city tax rate by Council.

What to Look For This Year

The City does not intend to raise property tax and sales tax rates will also remain the same this year. Electrical costs are continuing to rise with the increased environmental regulations at the Federal level, however the City does not intend to raise electric rates this year. The City has dropped its profit margins in the power company so that many of the cost increases have not been passed on to the end user. We expect natural gas costs to the citizen to be the same as last year, as the City has looked ahead and pre-purchased gas when the market was low for the next five years. Water rates are projected to remain unchanged, however with projected sewer pipeline projects, sewer rates are expected to increase around \$1.00 a month to service required debt and

reserve for projects identified in the recently completed 20 Year Sewer Master Plan for the community. Wellness Center memberships are meeting projections with average memberships just over 1,200 after the first year of operation. The City budgets will reflect close to breakeven amounts in all enterprise funds after debt service. The goal of the Council is to deliver services to citizens as inexpensively as possible while maintaining reliable systems.



The City will be working several infrastructure projects this year including the completion of road improvements in town and \$1,000,000 of intown water distribution improvements. With the approval of the Forest Service the City will begin the replacement of the old 8" transmission line off the mountain with a new 12" transmission line with an extension over to Drywash Reservoir to allow the community to better manage that resource. A new clay blanket will be placed on Starvation Reservoir beginning in the Spring. The \$750,000 project will help alleviate water loss that has been occurring over the years. The City will also put in a new irrigation system and plant sod at the old pool site to eliminate that weed patch.



Less than Average Winter

Our area saw a less than average winter, we will need to be conservative!

2012 March Water Camp Jackson in inches 12.6
Total YTD 15- Percent of Average 84%

2011 Same Time - Water Camp Jackson in inches 16.5
Total YTD 18 - Percent of Average 110%

City Information

City Offices 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM M-Th

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM Fri.

Phone # 678-2791 Fax # 678-3312

E-Mail - cityoffice@blanding-ut.gov

Home Page - www.blanding-ut.gov

Utility Emergencies # 678-2916

Police # 678-2334 / 678-2916

Fire/Life Threatening # 911



Community Development 2011

The community saw \$12,182,258 worth of development with 23 Building Permits issued in 2011. Some of the projects will be completed in the spring of this year. Private Construction was valued at \$6,719,702 and included several new homes and the addition of the Grayson Apartments, a new 30 unit complex on 500 South and 600 West. The complex will have 2 and 3 bedroom apartments. Other government institutions contributed \$2,004,807 to the total including projects like the high school track renovations, the new administration building at the college and the new salt storage building for the County. City projects totaled \$3,457,749 and included projects like the city office remodel, a \$1,002,000 airport project, nearly 2 million in road improvements and the 300 West water main project. With nearly \$9 million of development in 2009 and over \$4 million in 2010 has given our community \$25 million of investment in the last three years. These projects with on going operations and maintenance have kept City staff exceptionally busy. We appreciate your patience in working with us as we continue to see growth and improvement in our little town.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first: Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call.



Spring is in the Air!

We kick off the season with T-Ball and Machine Pitch registrations that began March 19th, with games beginning first week in May. Baseball & Softball registration will also begin the week of March 19th. Pick up registration forms at the Wellness Center or download form online @ www.blanding-ut.gov.



SAVE\$-Convert to Natural Gas

With Natural Gas prices so low it is a good time to consider switching to Natural Gas. With the dip in the market the City locked in the majority of our natural gas supply prices for five years, meaning you can expect price stability for the foreseeable future. The savings available with natural gas as compared to propane continues to grow as that cost difference widens. Natural Gas is the cheapest source of energy we have in Blanding and you will receive a return in savings on your investment. Call the City Office to begin saving.



LEVEL MONTHLY UTILITY BILL OPTION - EQUAL PAY !

At your request City Council has approved a level payment plan for your city utility costs for qualifying customers. Under this program the City will calculate your average monthly bill for the year and set level payments for you. To qualify you must own your own residence, have maintained an active account for 12 months prior to sign up and have had no missed or late payments in the last 12 months. To begin the program you must sign up in April, May, or June of each year. Please contact the City Office if you are interested.

Bills by email

You can now receive your City utility bill in the mail, by email or both. Stop by the City office to make the change, or email lrarick@blanding-ut.gov to make the change. Your bill can also be paid automatically from your checking account each month. Go to www.blanding-ut.gov and click on online bill pay to enroll, or bring a voided check to the City office.



July 4th will be upon us before you know it. As always we are looking for volunteers to help with the festivities and for individuals, families and business to participate with a parade entry or float. Plan on being involved, it takes a community to make it all successful. Our Fourth Chairman this year is Lynn Stevens and our Parade Chairman this year is Robert Ogle. Contact them or the City to get involved. The celebration will be on July 4th and the theme is "We Will Never Forget".

Daylight Savings Transfer Station Hours

Daylight Saving Time began Sunday, March 11, 2012 @ 2:00am, and will end Sunday, November 4, 2012, 2:00am.

Transfer Station hours changed to summer hours March 12, 2012 as follows.

Summer Hours:

Tuesdays	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Thursdays	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Saturdays	10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Park Reservations / Park Sale Permit

Park pavillions are used on a first come first served basis unless reserved in advance. Park pavillion reservations can be completed at no cost by stopping by the Wellness Center. The City will issue a reservation card as evidence of your reservation. The Visitor Center pavillion cannot be reserved. Any sales that occur in the park also require a free use Sale Permit showing rules and regulations for the same. You can be asked to leave the park if you are selling your wares without a permit.

City Council

Toni Turk, Mayor 678-2428
 Kelly Laws, City Council 678-2474
 Joe Lyman, City Council 678-2400
 Charlie Taylor, City Council 678-2208
 Mike Halliday, City Council 678-2381
 David Johnson, City Council 678-2415